
Whispers

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Cedarville College

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whispers

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inside:
special suppliment
on women's athletics



Women's athletics grow, develop

By Nancy Crick and Karen Troyer

Getting started

Twenty-two years ago women's athletics were just being born at Cedarville College. Now the program boasts six sports involving over 75 women.

Don Callan, athletic director, recalled that in 1960 women's sports consisted only of intramural activities under Barb McIntosh's direction.

Seeing a need to develop a better women's program and believing that "if it's good for men, it can be just as functional for women," he sought help from his alma mater, Taylor University. On a stop-over visit there he contacted June Kearney, a prospective graduate.

Dr. James Jeremiah also saw the void and hired Miss Kearney to teach physical education and to coach basketball in 1962. The following year she added volleyball and later field hockey.

"We were fairly successful in those early years," Callan remembered; "we competed on a major college level with Miami, Ohio State and Dayton," whose programs were also still in the formative stages.

Dr. Kearney explained that Cedarville's location in an area highly concentrated with colleges and universities enabled them to play a lot of games on a relatively small budget.

She continued that leagues, conferences and tournaments were also absent in the beginning stages of women's athletics. Cedarville College was a forerunner in developing these areas, she explained, noting that they helped form the Ohio Valley League, the first for women in the midwest.

Later Cedarville hosted state tournaments and attended one of the first national invitational tournaments.

The basketball and volleyball team experienced a number of

exciting events, Kearney recalled, and as the program grew, every new step was a highlight.

When the program began, they played in Alford, so moving to the "new gym" (the present cafeteria) was an exciting time.

Getting started in itself was an accomplishment, as well as developing leagues and tournaments.

She and Callan both recalled the women's basketball team playing to capacity crowds at the state tournaments held here. Kearney remembered that Cedarville once played in the final game against Ohio State University.

Also vitally involved in this nurturing effort was Mary Alyce Jeremiah, a player on Miss Kearney's early teams who returned as coach in 1969.

"Basketball went right to the top," under her coaching, Callan remarked. "She was a very effective coach." Miss Jeremiah led the basketball team to several state finals and to the national invitational tournament.

With Jeremiah's arrival as a faculty member, Miss Kearney began to concentrate on volleyball and field hockey.

"I enjoyed volleyball so much," she reminisced. "We played a lot of teams and did well in the tournaments."

As a member of the Miami Valley Field Hockey Association, she remembered that having them recognize individual players from their team yearly was always a highlight.

"We were not good enough as a team to do much, but we always had a few players who were of high caliber," she related.

Shortly after Miss Jeremiah's arrival, she began a women's tennis team, which was taken on about two years later by Pam Diehl. When tennis, originally a fall sport, was moved to the spring, Miss Diehl picked up that coaching responsibility.

Previously Diehl had coached field hockey in the fall, prohibiting her from tennis coaching. Under her direction

the team has since attended NAIA national tournaments in Kansas City.

As these sports were growing, the Women's Recreation Association formed to sponsor monthly athletic activities for women, unavailable on campus, including such things as swimming, bowling and skiing. Later the organization was abandoned, Kearney reported, when the college began meeting the same needs more fully.

Miss Kearney continued her input, though, beginning the softball team in 1977, which was the first women's team to travel to Florida. She remembered the team spending winter quarter preparing music with Kathy (Howell) Sturgis for a Sunday evening program which they presented while there.

Growing

The youngest members of the women's athletic programs have developed in the past four years under the direction of Elvin King. Callan noted that King willingly accepted an overload to expand his programs with the men to include the women.

King committed himself to beginning a women's cross country team as soon as there were women willing to train year around for the sport. The first woman to make this effort was Laura Clayton.

Miss Clayton trained with the men's team in the fall and continued to run throughout the winter. She then approached King and informed him of her efforts. This prompted the birth of the first track and field team.

The announcement of this addition attracted those who competed in events other than distance running and these women composed the remainder of the team.

The following year saw the birth of the women's cross country team. With the demise of field hockey (dropped from the athletic program in 1982), women athletes turned to cross country to continue their training. Seven women participated in that first year; however, they beat only one team.

In the following year, the growing team defeated several other teams. Two years ago, the maturing team won its first

NCCAA district championship. This feat was repeated last year with the help of Jane Romig.

"Jane exhibits a good deal of natural talent," King remarked.

In the 1984 season, the team captured its third consecutive NCCAA district championship. Callan pointed out that one of the most noteworthy accomplishments by Cedarville's women athletes has been the NAIA and NCCAA nationally champions from those teams.

Purposes

Callan and Kearney paralleled the purposes of men's and women's sports. Dr. Karol Hunt, present women's basketball coach agreed, stating, "It's a vital part of the development of our women students, giving them an opportunity to develop their various skills and talents... fundamentally the same as men's sports."

Dr. Kearney continued, "It's

an opportunity to participate, to travel, to meet other people, to give a Christian witness that other people on campus don't have."

Both men's and women's sports, Callan believes, are two of the "showcase of Cedarville College."

"The kids are on display," he added, explaining that this is one way the college can reach out to the world.

Dr. Kearney agreed, including emotional development in the game... learning self control, to go through hard times and sacrificing for the good of the team, "something you don't always have the opportunity to show in other areas."

According to Dr. Diehl, the main purpose of women's sports is to glorify God. "I want players to see sports as a part of their lives, not as their entire lives," she explained.

Heidi Peterson, a player for four years on the women's basketball team, found athletics a "stress release mechanism" as

HISTORY OF WOMEN'S ATHLETICS

	1962	women's intramurals in action	Kearney joins faculty
1966	1967	field hockey added	
1971	1972		
1976	1977	softball added	
1981	1982	cross country begins	track begins
		Brown arrives	

On the cover

Dale Hale, Dave Linder, Bob Smith, Dave Dooley and Miss Bee (Deb Pate) compliment the women's basketball games with their enthusiastic support. Hale reported that they formed the cheerleading squad to "add a little spice to the game" and "to help morale."

The squad cheers for every home basketball game, their uniforms being blue 'Ville shirts and jeans (photos by E. Parks).

and change during 22 year history

well as a place to develop friendships.

"I learned how to get along with people that probably I didn't always have to face," she added.

"It disciplines you," remarked freshman cager Tonya Bumpus, explaining that she has to schedule her study time to fit around basketball, and actually accomplishes more than she does without the pressure of the season.

Changing attitudes

As more women have become more involved in athletics, attitudes have improved, as well.

"The day is gone for women athletes as necessarily being thought of as masculine," Callan affirmed.

Dr. Kearney noted that many programs in women's sports "started by people having a good attitude toward women in certain sports like gymnastics

and golf."

According to volleyball coach Elaine Brown, the women on the volleyball team have noticed a change in attitudes toward themselves and toward women's sports. With the team's success the players found they were being recognized on campus.

Miss Brown said that people began taking an active interest in women's athletics, especially with the success of the woman's volleyball team in the summer Olympics.

Miss Peterson has noted some changes in just the past five years, stating, "when I first came here, women's basketball was looked down on. A big change occurred when the team went to China."

The China women's basketball team was part of the Missionary Internship Service's programs in 1981. Callan who led the group, admitted, "My attitudes changed when I got to know our girls when I took the team to China."

"They really want to be a full-

filled total person; they are just more physical than many," he continued.

Dr. Hunt finds "very little the same" since she finished her playing career in 1974. She has found the skill level to progress.

"Then there was no inside game, now it's almost necessary," she elaborated, focusing on basketball.

Dr. Kearney emphasized that the development of women's sports was "just giving opportunities to women in more areas, not competing with the men."

Distinctives

As programs have matured in women's sports here they have maintained certain distinctives.

Dr. Kearney recalled a regional tournament in Michigan in which games were scheduled for Friday and Saturday with final on Sunday. When the Yellow Jackets qualified they warned the officials that they would not play on Sunday.

The officials still allowed them to come, Kearney continued, not expecting the team from Cedarville would actually make the final and forfeit the game.

Their firm stand later got the rules for Sunday play changed.

Miss Peterson and Miss Bumpus, both from public high schools, noted that they found a team of Christians different.

Miss Peterson identified their "Christ-oriented" focus.

Miss Bumpus expressed appreciation for a team without serious internal competition as in her high school team.

Dr. Diehl opined that the limited scholarship offerings of a small Christian college ensures that a new student comes to Cedarville because she wants to rather than because of a scholarship. This helps to maintain proper priorities as students don't come just to play a sport.

Dr. Hunt suggested that the emphasis here is different. At



This group of faithful fans frequently appears at the women's games as the Lady Jackets kazoo pep band in their efforts to support the women's team. Pictured are Lynn Dee Cramer, Sue Baldis, Ginger Johnson, Chris Friedkin, Mindy Brace and Deb Pate (Miss Bee). (photo by E. Parks).

Cedarville College the goal is "not just to have the experience, but to have excellence in the experience," which differs from the smaller Christian school where formerly taught.

In larger schools, however, she explained that "they recruit excellence to begin with."

"We do recruit, but we take whom also is here and develop them," she continued.

Athletic Director Callan explained that they emphasize discipleship in all of the programs, hoping to equip the athletes for their future first, then for their college athletic career.

New programs

Although the college has "reached its saturation point," as Dr. Diehl puts it, the development of women's sports programs is expanding in some other areas.

Callan explained that girls

volleyball and basketball camps are now run in the summer, along with the boys soccer and basketball camps.

Dr. Kearney, who runs sports camps at Indiana University for over 500 girls each summer, noted "that whole area has really changed for girls."

The Athletic Hall of Fame is another new program in which both men and women are involved, Callan noted. Dr. June Kearney was inducted this fall as the program began.

Other advancements, however, will have to wait. Dr. Diehl explained that all of the physical education faculty are now working to their capacity, preventing any possibilities of more sports programs until the department can hire another faculty member.

In a span of time comparable to a typical student's lifetime, however, Cedarville's women's athletic program had grown from an infancy of unorganized intramurals to a mature program of six different sports with increasing involvement.

While the next twenty years may not show as much visible growth, the programs can be expected to maintain and constantly improve its current focus--Christ and proper Christian living.

according to old yearbooks

1963	1964	1965
basketball begun	volleyball added	
1968	1969	1970
		Jeremiah added to faculty
1973	1974	1975
tennis added		Diehl arrives
1978	1979	1980
		Schlappi takes on basketball
1983	1984	
id ckey pped	Hunt added to faculty	

Dr. Mary Alyce Jeremiah now acts as head coach of the Big Ten's Indiana University's women's basketball team. She holds responsibility for the total program, while assisted by Dr. June Kearney and another assistant.

Specifically, Kearney supervises the scheduling of team travel and itineraries and assists players in their academic life.

The other asistant handles recruiting.

Injury-affected team still fighting hard

By Nancy Crick

Injuries have cut the women's basketball team down to eight players, five of them freshmen.

This situation partially accounts for the team's rather disappointing win-loss record of 2-10. Coach Karol Hunt explained that injuries and illness have forced experienced players from the court.

Of the two returning starters from last year's squad, Karen Headdings is out with mononucleosis and senior captain Jewel Schroder is playing with a broken finger.

At the close of last season the team had hoped for a strong season, only losing two starters from the squad. As try-outs and practice began, however, junior Beth Goldsmith noted that their goals for the season were gradually changed as players injuries took their toll.

Originally Coach Hunt had hoped to place third in the con-

ference, but that goal has been "altered a little," she said.

They are working now on improving their shooting from the field to 43 to 44 percent, increasing their free throw percentage to 70 percent, scoring 70 points per game and playing effective man-to-man defense, she continued.

Besides adapting their goals, Miss Goldsmith noted that they have altered their play somewhat from last year. Having lost two taller players at the end of last year, the team has shifted to more outside shooting, not being able to get as many shots from the inside due to their lack of height, she explained.

Hoping to achieve their goals, along with returning players Miss Schroder and Miss Goldsmith, sophomore Sherri Norrick and freshmen Crystal Patrick and Stacy McCaskill complete the starting squad.

Playing off the bench are

freshmen Patti Parker, Ruth Eissens and Tonya Bumpus.

Despite the difficult situation in which the team finds themselves, Dr. Hunt noted that "they haven't given up."

She commended Miss Goldsmith as the most improved player from last year. Miss Norrick, the coach noted, is "shooting very well for us... and is a good defensive player too."

She also pointed out the team captain Miss Schroder who has continued to play with the broken finger.

Freshmen at other positions, she commented, are "still making that adjustment from high school to college ball."

The normal adjustment time, though, normally given by watching experienced players from the bench and by playing in less competitive situations has not been allowed this season, though, as their situation has "forced freshmen into competitive situations before

they've had previous experience," the coach reported.

"I never got to play hardly at all in high school," Miss Bumpus remarked; "it's strange to be able to come to college and play more than you did in high school," she added.

Miss McCaskill and Miss Parker did play more in high school, coach Hunt noted, although Miss McCaskill played behind other stronger players who overshadowed her.

In adjusting to college ball, Miss Bumpus has noticed that the game is a lot more physical and strenuous. "You have to work a lot harder," she added.

She especially noted other differences from her high school team. "You develop a lot of really close friendships with other people on the team."

She added that on her high school team there was a lot of internal competition among the team. Here "God is always first above basketball," she continued.



Coach Karol Hunt studies her team during the 8 Jan. game with Urbana (photo by E. Parks).

Miss Goldsmith concluded that the team is looking forward to several second round conference games, particularly Findlay and Bluffton; Findlay having been a close first-half game earlier this season and Bluffton "always an exciting game... as we share a lot with them."

No. 30 Tonya Bumpus positions herself during this jump shot during the game that ended in a 42-61 loss to Urbana (photo by E. Parks).



Spikers finish season with winning record

By Karen Troyer

Ending with a 31-13 record, the volleyball team completed their most victorious season ever.

Reflecting on the season, coach Elaine Brown cited as the highpoint of the season the two matches against Wittenburg and Central State which clinched the team's district birth.

Goals played a large part in the team's success, according to Miss Brown. The team's major goal was to cooperate as individuals and to bring about a cohesive team spirit.

Work toward this goal began during a pre-season retreat. The team spent a week at Scioto Hills Baptist Camp in Wheelersville, Ohio. Camp director Gary Storm challenged the team with a "cooperation course" to be conquered. This outdoor obstacle-style course

called for group cooperation to solve a problem.

Coach Brown said she believed that this experience laid a solid foundation for the entire season. She plans to make this retreat a regular part of the team's schedule.

The teamwork and cooperation exhibited brought the team to its first-ever appearance in the NAIA District 22 volleyball playoffs.

Although Coach Brown cited junior Beth Goldsmith as a good all-around player, "all six starters contributed to the team's success," she said. The remaining starters included junior Renee Gaston, senior Carol Helmick, senior Teri Peterson, freshman Becky Wilson and sophomore Melinda Bradley. Coach Brown added, two players from the bench who were ready whenever needed

were sophomores Angie Wilcox and Julie Butler.

Miss Gaston, who was second team all-WBCC was also named the team's "Most Valuable Hitter" with 207 kills. Teammate Peterson was selected first team in the league as well as in NAIA District 22. Miss Peterson lead the team with 388 assists.

Miss Wilson earned "Most Valuable Player" as a freshman, while her 93.0 serving percentage was the best on the team. The top defensive performer on the team was deemed to be Miss Helmick. Miss Wilcox was voted the "Most Improved Player."

Beth Goldsmith compiled many awards for her efforts on the team. In addition to being "Most Valuable Blocker," she was second team NAIA All-Ohio and All-WBCC honorable mention.